

**A Neoclassical agate cameo depicting a veiled bearded man, probably Saturn.**

Dimensions: 21 × 16 × 3 mm (mounting on request)

Late 18th – early 19th century

An exceptional oval agate cameo of elongated proportions, exploiting the natural banding and polychrome veining of the stone. The bust is carved in profile to the right, showing a bearded mature man with a full ondulated beard, aquiline nose, and deeply set features. His head and shoulders are covered in a voluminous veil falling in broad sculptural folds across the back of the skull and onto the chest — an iconographic attribute traditionally associated with **Saturn** (*Capite velato*, « with veiled head »), the Roman god of time and agricultural cycles, whose veil recalls both his melancholic nature and the ritual gesture of the pater familias performing sacrifice.

## An iconographic type anchored in Antiquity

The composition derives directly from Roman statuary prototypes that constitute the canonical references for the veiled Saturn/Kronos in glyptic art:

— The veiled bsut of Saturn preserved in the Musei Vaticani, Museo Pio-Clementino, Sala dei Busti, a Roman work of 1st century.

— The veiled bust of Saturn in the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Antikensammlung (inv. Sk 256), a Roman marble of analogous type preserving the same iconographic codes: full curled beard, aquiline profile, hair falling in waves at the temples, and above all the ample velum pulled forward over the head to form a protective hood, its drape framing the face on both sides before descending onto the shoulders.